AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A cold die steel excellent in characteristics of suppressing dimensional change, consisting essentially of~~including~~, by mass%,

carbon (C): 0.7% or more and less than 1.6%,

silicon (Si): 0.5 to 3.0%,

manganese (Mn): 0.1 to 3.0%,

phosphor (P): less than 0.05% including 0%,

sulfur (S): 0.01 to 0.12%,

chromium (Cr): 7.0 to 13.0%,

one or two elements selected from the group consisting of molybdenum (Mo) and tungsten (W): amounts satisfying the formula: (Mo + (W/2)) = 0.5 to 1.7%,

vanadium (V): less than 0.7% including 0%,

nickel (Ni): 0.3 to 1.5%,

copper (Cu): 0.1 to 1.0%, ~~and~~

aluminum (Al): 0.1 to 0.7%, and

the balance being iron and unavoidable impurities,

wherein amounts of nickel and aluminum satisfy the formula: Ni/Al = 1 to 3.7.

Claim 2 (canceled).

3. (original): The cold die steel according to claim 1, wherein amounts of chromium and carbon satisfy the formulas by mass%: $(Cr - 4.2 \times C) \leq 5$ or less, and $(Cr - 6.3 \times C) = 1.4$ or more.

4. (original): The cold die steel according to claim 1, wherein the steel further includes, by mass%, 0.3% or less excluding 0% of columbium (Nb).

5. (currently amended): A cold die steel excellent in characteristics of suppressing dimensional change ~~including,~~consisting essentially of, by mass%,

carbon (C): 0.7% or more and less than 1.6%,

silicon (Si): 0.5 to 3.0%,

manganese (Mn): 0.1 to 3.0%,

phosphor (P): less than 0.05% including 0%,

sulfur (S): 0.01 to 0.12%,

chromium (Cr): 7.0 to 13.0%,

one or two elements selected from the group consisting of molybdenum (Mo) and tungsten (W): amounts satisfying the formula: $(Mo + (W/2)) = 0.5$ to 1.7%,

vanadium (V): less than 0.7% including 0%,

nickel (Ni): 0.3 to 1.5%,

copper (Cu): 0.1 to 1.0%,

aluminum (Al): 0.1 to 0.7%, ~~and~~

columbium (Nb): 0.3% or less excluding 0%, and

the balance being iron and unavoidable impurities,

wherein amounts of nickel and aluminum satisfy the formula: Ni/Al = 1 to 3.7,

and

wherein amounts of chromium and carbon satisfy the formulas: (Cr - 4.2 × C) = 5

or less, and (Cr - 6.3 × C) = 1.4 or more, and

wherein the steel includes solid-solute carbon of about 0.53%,

whereby nickel and aluminum forms an intermetallic compound through

quenching and tempering.

Claims 6-8 (canceled).

9. (new): A method for suppressing dimensional change of a cold die steel, comprising

preparing an ingot of the steel, the steel consisting essentially of, by mass%,

carbon (C): 0.7% or more and less than 1.6%,

silicon (Si): 0.5 to 3.0%,

manganese (Mn): 0.1 to 3.0%,

phosphor (P): less than 0.05% including 0%,

sulfur (S): 0.01 to 0.12%,

chromium (Cr): 7.0 to 13.0%,

one or two elements selected from the group consisting of molybdenum (Mo) and

tungsten (W): amounts satisfying the formula: (Mo + (W/2)) = 0.5 to 1.7%,

vanadium (V): less than 0.7% including 0%,

nickel (Ni) : 0.3 to 1.5%,

copper (Cu) : 0.1 to 1.0%,

aluminum (Al): 0.1 to 0.7%, and

the balance being iron and unavoidable impurities,

wherein amounts of nickel and aluminum satisfy the formula by mass%:

Ni/Al = 1 to 3.7;

hot working the ingot,

annealing the worked steel,

quenching the annealed steel,

tempering the quenched steel so that nickel and aluminum form an intermetallic compound.

10. (new): The method according to claim 9, wherein the amounts of chromium and carbon satisfy the formulas by mass%: (Cr - 4.2 x C) = 5 or less, and (Cr - 6.3 x C) = 1.4 or more, and

wherein the quenching is performed from about 1030°C whereby an amount of solid-solute carbon becomes about 0.53%.

11. (new): The method according to claim 9, wherein the tempering comprises heating the steel at about 510°C.

12. (new): The method according to claim 9, wherein the steel further includes, by mass%, 0.3% or less excluding 0% of columbium (Nb).